

## CHAPTER NO. 19

## HOUSE BILL NO. 205

**By Representative Rinks and Mr. Speaker Naifeh and Representatives Walley, Lois DeBerry, McDaniel, Givens, Kisber, Pleasant**

**Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1511**

**By Mr. Speaker Wilder**

AN ACT to designate a certain segment of U.S. Highway 64 within McNairy County as the "Buford Pusser Highway".

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee is proud to honor the memory of those estimable public servants who have championed the right causes and unselfishly given of themselves to uphold the law; and

WHEREAS, the late Buford Pusser, a native of Finger in McNairy County, was one such man, a man of honor and integrity; his renowned legacy of courage, honesty, and goodwill upheld the reverence of law enforcement officers that all good citizens possess; and

WHEREAS, Buford Pusser served three consecutive terms as Sheriff of McNairy County, was devoted to duty and enforced the law at all costs; and

WHEREAS, Buford Pusser's heroic efforts to curb the proliferation of illegal activities on the Tennessee-Mississippi border began early in 1957, when he was severely beaten at an area club; and

WHEREAS, Buford Pusser's exceptional career as a law enforcement officer and protector of the peace began in 1962, when he was appointed Chief of Police of Adamsville; and

WHEREAS, he was later elected constable and continued at this post throughout his three consecutive terms as sheriff; and

WHEREAS, during Buford Pusser's first year as Sheriff of McNairy County, he and his deputies raided and destroyed more than forty moonshine operations; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as sheriff, Buford Pusser often risked his life to uphold the law, not for fame or glory, but rather so that the citizens of McNairy County might feel secure in their own homes; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Pusser's crime-fighting efforts have inspired a book, a television series, a documentary, three motion pictures, and numerous magazine articles, all of which depict the great heroism of this legendary man who truly "walked tall"; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, Buford Pusser had just sealed an agreement to play himself in the second "Walking Tall" film when he lost his life in a fatal automobile accident, thus robbing the

public of the opportunity to see the real Buford Pusser bring his illustrious career to the screen; and

WHEREAS, although Sheriff Pusser is no longer with us, his legacy of noble service remains and serves to remind us of this great man's stature as a fearless defender of the oppressed; and

WHEREAS, the good people of Adamsville continue to honor the memory of this great man through the celebration of the annual Buford Pusser Festival; and

WHEREAS, the McNairy County Commission has passed a resolution requesting that U.S. Highway 64 within McNairy County be named in honor of Buford Pusser's memory; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly most heartily concurs with this excellent proposal; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, it shall be the duty of the Department of Transportation to erect and maintain directional signs at sites and facilities of educational and cultural interest to the citizens of the State, including the erection of such signs for the "Buford Pusser Highway" on U.S. Highway 64 within McNairy County, from the Hardeman County boundary eastward to the Hardin County boundary.

SECTION 2. The erection of such directional signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 3. This act shall become operative only if the Federal Highway Administrator advises the Commissioner of Transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: March 8, 1999

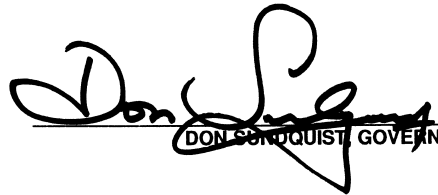


JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



JOHN S. WILDER  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 17th day of March 1999



DON SUNDQUIST, GOVERNOR